



OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING POLICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Thursday, July 15, 2021

Greetings, Residents & Community Members,

I have had an opportunity to view the dash camera and body camera videos of our police officers recently posted on the internet. Those videos depict a number of concerning statements and citizen contacts amongst current and former officers. While I cannot speak on matters involving specific employees, I can share with you that a full external investigation will be conducted, and the appropriate corrective actions will be taken.

Additionally, we are mandating all police department personnel and city employees to attend and complete diversity and sensitivity training. While I know that the majority of the men and women of our police department are committed to responsive, respective, and constitutional policing, we acknowledge that there is still work to be done.

I must also address an equally important issue related to this matter, which is the unlawful publication of law enforcement records. There are a number of regulations and laws that specify how files, evidence, and records, including digital recordings, are managed and shared. As part of our investigation, we will look into any potential breach of our systems and the manner in which information has been shared with the public.

To conclude, the City of Seat Pleasant has not and will not condemn those who bring forward concerns of police-community interactions. It is important to note that there is a way to do so within the limits of the law. Nevertheless, in this moment, we will not attack the problem, individuals, or story; I ask that we go through the solution process, learn, and grow. We are always grateful for our community members and our media partners that assist us in maintaining transparent and community-oriented partnership.

Blessings to each of you and thank you for your attention on this matter.

Respectfully,
Council President Kelly Porter
Council Member, At-Large